

# Schweiker Asks Full Embargo On Ships Trading With Cuba

**Congressman Warns Russia Military Establishment  
Seriously Threatens U.S. Security as He Presses  
For Severe Economic Sanctions**

Congressman Richard S. Schweiker this afternoon urged that the Organization of American States be asked to institute a total embargo on ships trading with Cuba.

In pressing for severe economic sanctions against the Castro regime, Schweiker warned that the present Red military establishment in Cuba seriously threatens our nation's security.

He said the Communist arms machine in Cuba is much more powerful today than early last fall when some Congressmen first warned of the buildup.

Schweiker proposed that OAS countries refuse admission to their ports of any ships used to carry goods to or from the island country. He said the embargo should include all vessels of any nation or shipping firm which continues to trade with Cuba.

He would exempt only food and drugs from this embargo.

"What I am suggesting is severe. But we are faced with a situation that demands severe action," Schweiker said.

"Just recently, the House Inter-American Affairs Subcommittee was told by Dr. Manuel A. deVarona, former Cuban Prime Minister, that the Admini-

stration had underestimated the number of Soviet troops in Cuba, possibly by as much as 50 per cent. There may be as many as 35,000.

"In addition," Schweiker noted, "Dr. de Varona said that Cuba has set up several schools of sabotage and guerrilla warfare throughout Latin America and has established two secret military bases, one in the jungles of Brazil and the other in the mountains of Paraguay. Central Intelligence Agency Director John A. McCone confirmed that more than 1,000 Latin Americans are known to receive guerrilla warfare and subversion training from Castro's Red forces annually," Schweiker pointed out.

"The Soviet offensive missiles may or may not have been removed from Cuba," Schweiker said. "But the vast buildup of so-called defensive arms, and the presence of thousands of Iron Curtain personnel pose a grave threat to our security and that of our Latin American neighbors."

"The chances for a successful overthrow of the Castro regime from within become more remote each day as Castro and his Soviet partners aim to insure that such a revolt would be turned into another tragic Hungary," Schweiker said.

"I regret that the Administration did not see fit to take decisive action more quickly last fall," Schweiker told his audience.

"I feel strongly that the month-and-a-half lost between September 11, when many of us in Congress called for a blockade, and October 21, when that action finally was taken, contributed greatly to the Red military might which now threatens us from Cuba."

"I would urge that immediate economic sanctions be imposed by the OAS until such time as we can be certain through on-site inspection of some other impartial group that the military threat posed by Cuba is eliminated."

Schweiker spoke at a meeting of

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